

# TOWN Reminder

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Town Reminder in Texas



## Law passed allowing mail in voting in Mass.

BOSTON – On Monday, Governor Charlie Baker signed a new law allowing all registered voters in Massachusetts to vote by mail in any 2020 election, with no excuse needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Secretary of Massachusetts, William Galvin's website.

As required by the new law, a "Vote by Mail" application will be mailed to every person who was registered to vote by July 1 and who had not already requested an absentee ballot for the State Primary or for all elections this year.

A second mailing will be sent out in September to all voters who have not already applied for a Vote by Mail ballot for the November election. The applications are pre-addressed to the local election official and no postage is necessary.

Please see **MAIL IN VOTING**, page 4



Cheryl Davidson speaks to Get Movin' Fitness owner April Marion on July 8, two days after Phase III allowed the business to reopen its indoor operation.

## Local gyms and yoga studios talk Phase III

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

REGION – Local gyms, fitness centers and yoga studios are among the businesses that are hardest hit by the COVID-19

pandemic. Due to the physically proximate nature of their operations, many owners have been left to sweat out financial crises.

Different owners are taking different approaches in an attempt to stay afloat as the catastrophic virus wreaks havoc on the industry. Michele Lyman, owner of Serenity Yoga at 17 College Street, and April Marion, owner of Get Movin' Fitness

Please see **LOCAL GYMS**, page 8

at 577 Granby Road, are navigating difficult and unfamiliar circumstances.

Both businesses fall under the category of "fitness centers and health clubs," according to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and are allowed to reopen as part of Phase III, which began

Please see **MAIL IN VOTING**, page 4

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# Transfer Station open

## By appointment and prepayment only

SOUTH HADLEY – Beginning Tuesday, July 7, the South Hadley Transfer Station reopened.

Its new hours of operation will be Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be closed daily between 12 and 1 p.m. Residents will need to book a time to use the facility online, here or go to <https://southhadley.org/1036/Compost-Area-and-Transfer-Station-Reserv>. Online prepayment is also now required.

Fill out the form and submit. Make sure you receive a confirmation email to confirm your time slot. If there is a conflict in the time slot chosen the email will tell you to pick a new date or time.

If you do not have a sticker for your vehicle, please do not make a reservation. You may request a sticker by filling out the form at <https://southhadley.org/FormCenter/Public-Works-5/TrashRecy>

pling-Sticker-Request-Form-70. At this time, one-day passes are not being issued.

Prepayment for items is now required for use of the transfer station, as payment is no longer accepted at the facility. You can do this online, here or go to <https://southhadley.org/1035/Transfer-Station-Prepayment>.

Click “Add to Cart” below whichever items you wish to dispose of at the station. If you have different items to dispose of, be sure to click “Continue Shopping” at the top right of the PayPal cart to be directed back to the list of items from which to choose. Make sure to print a receipt or make a screenshot of your receipt. At the transfer station, you will be required to show either a printed receipt or e-receipt when you arrive. No exceptions.

Please look at the new fee schedule for what items are accepted and the cost for disposing of those items. Please note the town no longer accepts bulky waste or construction debris.

To schedule a reservation, look at the calendar for a date and time you wish to book. Times that are already booked will show as busy. Times are booked in five-minute intervals i.e.: 8:00, 8:05, 8:10, 10:20, 10:25, 10:30, 10:35, etc. Look for a five-minute time that is *not already busy*.

Fill out your: Name, email address, street address and Reservation type (transfer station or yard waste facility). You will need to book two separate times if you wish to use the transfer station and yard waste facility on the same visit i.e.: 9:00 and 9:05.

Please include the reservation date and reservation time (make sure to choose a.m. or p.m.) Then click submit. You will receive either a confirmation email or a conflict email and have to re-book a new date and or time.

If you need to cancel your reservation, you need to call or email the DPW office at (413)-538-5033 or [kquesnel@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:kquesnel@southhadleyma.gov)

The town is scheduling times to make sure there are no crowds and to control how many residents are allowed at a time to comply with the state's reopening plan. Under guidance from the Commonwealth and the emergency management director, this plan was developed and implemented.

### Terms and conditions:

Follow the instructions of attendants.

All items that have a cost to dispose of at the transfer station must be paid for online ahead of your scheduled visit. Please print your receipt or be ready to show the attendants an e-receipt.

Dispose of transfer station items, yard waste and/or pick up mulch and go. No loitering, please.

Trash sticker must be attached to vehicle. No exceptions.

Stay in each of the coned disposal areas.

Continue to observe social distancing.

No contractors.

No drive-ups accepted without a booked time. No exceptions.

## Granby School Committee reorganizes

**By Melina Bourdeau**  
*Staff writer*

GRANBY – In its meeting following the local election, the Granby School Committee reorganized and heard from the new acting Superintendent, Carol Hepworth.

### Reorganization

To begin the meeting, the committee reorganized, starting with the chair.

Emre Evren was unanimously approved as the chair of the school committee, a position previously held by Michael Simpson.

School Committee member Jennifer Bartosz nominated Evren, saying she ap-

preciated his experience moving into a year of “change and potentially a little bit of turmoil.”

“He’s a solid leader and I really appreciate that,” she said.

Evren said it was great the committee had new members and wanted to help bridge the gap between the new members on the committee.

Bartosz was elected as the vice chair.

### Acting Superintendent introduction

Effective June 30, Superintendent Sheryl Stanton left her position to become the superintendent of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School

District in Buckland.

In her resignation letter, Stanton said Hepworth, retiring Pupil Services Director, postponed her retirement to serve as interim superintendent.

Hepworth said she was looking forward to working with the School Committee.

“I am very familiar with the work,” she said. “Two weeks ago, I was not thinking about doing this, I was pretty surprised. I’m glad that I can do it and help keep Granby in a good place and move it along while you decide who you want as the new superintendent.”

Hepworth said her focus over the last

four years has been improving special education in the district and now is her opportunity to shift gears and focus on all of the students.

Stanton told the board Hepworth personally and professionally always does more than expected as part of a leadership team.

“I appreciate your willingness to put Granby first, which we all do, but also you certainly, taking the lead in that,” Stanton said. “Thank you. I feel like Granby is left in good hands with someone who knows the work and the direction the district is going in.”

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# South Hadley Libraries update

SOUTH HADLEY – Services from the South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Memorial Library continue to gradually expand as they safely navigate new guidelines and procedures. This month brings four new offerings: lobby pickup service, home delivery, virtual program registration and online library card applications.

Lobby service is available at the South Hadley Public Library, Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Items can be requested online or by phone and patrons will be contacted when the materials are ready for them. You must wear a mask when visiting the library. Here are the specific directions:

Search the online catalog, limiting the search to South Hadley, to find items you

want: click here for our online catalog or go to <https://shadley.cwmars.org/eg/opac/home>.

Log into the catalog to place a hold or call the library with your requests.

If easier, staff are happy to select a "grab bag" of books, DVDs, etc., for you based on interest and availability, just give us a call.

Library staff will collect your items and place them on our hold shelf. You will receive an email notice or text message when your items are ready if your library account is set up for those notices. Otherwise you will be called by telephone.

New items are added every week. Subscribe to the Wowbrary email newsletter to see what's new: click here to subscribe

to Wowbrary or go to <https://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx?l=6649>

Home delivery of library items from the Gaylord Memorial Library is now available to South Hadley residents who have health or transportation issues that keep them from the library. This service allows patrons to have materials selected and delivered on a monthly basis. Home-bound delivery recipients must be home or have a household member available to receive the contactless delivery at the scheduled date/time. For more information, click here or go to <https://gaylorldlibrary.org/homebound-delivery/>.

Registration for Library Programs can now be done through the library calendar. As we increase the number of virtual programs for children and adults, residents

will need to register in order to receive information needed to attend Zoom programs. While you're browsing the calendar, check out the many summer programs being offered in July and August. It's not too late to register for our all-ages Summer Library Program to be eligible for fun prizes!

Library Card Applications are now available online for people who do not have a library card! From the library catalog, click on the option to "Request Library Card" at the bottom of the page or you can click here to go directly to the form or go to <https://shadley.cwmars.org/eg/opac/register>. The submitted application will be reviewed by staff and a new library card will be mailed to your address.

## A squirrelly scenario

*SHELD working on outages, high speed internet*

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – COVID-19 may be the primary health threat facing South Hadley residents, but squirrels pose the greatest danger to their electricity. During its June 25 meeting, the South Hadley Electric Light Department Board of Commissioners General Manager Sean Fitzgerald described a seemingly unusual phenomenon.

"Half of all squirrel outages occur in the months of May, June and July," said Fitzgerald. "More than 75 percent of those events occur between 5:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Most customers only experience a brief one-second outage."

For local businesses, a one-second outage can be quite disruptive, as rebooting a system after it's been shut down can be a lengthy process. Well aware that it's a squirrelly time of year, SHELD reported it is doing all that it can to minimize the incidents.

"Our efforts at SHELD have been to prevent these events by clearing vegetation near power lines, covering up connections and recently we've been using a non-lethal zap shield on transformers that are prone to squirrel outages so just a little insight," said Fitzgerald. "It's an active time of year for squirrels where we tend to have these [outages] happening to our customers. We're doing the best we can to mitigate those."

As of June 25, there had been nine outages in South Hadley in the month of June. Fitzgerald estimated that almost all

of them were caused by squirrels.

### High-speed internet

Shifting focus to FiberSonic, a high-speed internet service powered by SHELD, Fitzgerald stated that in-home installations have resumed with COVID-19 protocols in place. In the two weeks prior to the meeting, SHELD completed more than 40 installations.

"We've ramped up pretty fast," said Fitzgerald. "As a side note, the interest level for customers has exceeded 2,400 customers so we're continuing to climb here, and that is a really good sign."

SHELD has gone to great lengths to facilitate a safe working environment. A number of employees are still working remotely, and those who operate out of the Canal Street facility are being conscientious of following best practices.

"SHELD is still operating with one restriction, which is that the in-person customer service office remains closed to the public," said Fitzgerald. "We are continuing in this mode for now until further notice. We have been able to service our customer needs successfully. We're still taking phone calls and haven't really had any issues with customer service. With the office closed, people are still able to drop off payments, which they have been doing at our drop box."

Fitzgerald has communicated with the electric light departments in Holyoke, Chicopee and Westfield, and all are operating similarly. The majority of SHELD employees in the field are driving independently; when working within six-feet of each other, employees must wear masks.

"If you can't social distance, masks are required; same thing in the office space," said Fitzgerald. "We've issued sanitizer for all of the trucks; we've been

still spraying the office."

Certain situations make it difficult for SHELD employees to wear masks. For instance, when employees are alone, elevated in the "bucket," a mask is not required, but difficulties can arise on the ground.

"That's been the one challenge," said Fitzgerald. "Sometimes you're six-feet apart and you don't think and you're coming closer to one another and you forget. We have to keep reminding people, and they're getting better. I give them credit; the crews are getting better. We've had some challenges, but we're getting there."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turey.com](mailto:dzbierski@turey.com).

## GCAM to host office hours

GRANBY – GCAM will be holding Virtual Office Hours throughout July to hear Granby's voice in regard to what goes on Channels 12 and 15.

"We want to hear the community's questions, concerns, and comments," said Program Coordinator Alex LaMarche. "We can't wait to talk to everyone."

Granby residents and stakeholders can either log onto the Zoom Webinar or simply view on GCAM's Facebook page.

Wednesday, July 15, at 8 a.m.  
Access Code: 829 5217 4875  
Passcode (case-sensitive): 0NiGjM  
Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 1 p.m.  
Access Code: 836 4877 4202  
Passcode (case-sensitive): 2uSutx  
Friday, July 31st, 2020 at 6 p.m.  
Access Code: 870 3119 1973  
Passcode (case-sensitive): 2bnH1B

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# Governor investigates Soldiers' Home tragedy

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – On June 23, Gov. Charlie Baker released an investigative report analyzing the COVID-19 outbreak that occurred at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke this spring. Written by Attorney Mark Pearlstein, the 174-page document lists various factors that contributed to the deaths of 98 veterans and the hospitalizations of dozens more.

"Gov. Baker retained us to investigate the causes of this outbreak, with a goal of preventing similar tragedies in the future," wrote Pearlstein, an employee of the law firm McDermott Will & Emery. "We were also asked to investigate whether the home complied with rules for timely reporting of COVID-19 infections and deaths to the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services."

The Soldiers' Home is a state-operated long-term care facility on Cherry St. in Holyoke and its population consists entirely of veterans. While more than 80 long-term care facilities in the Commonwealth reported at least 20 COVID-19-related deaths, the Soldiers' Home tragedy gained national notoriety due to questionable management decisions that proceeded it.

Prior to the pandemic, the average Soldiers' Home resident was 85 years old; Pearlstein added that many of residents already suffered from "serious medical conditions." Both factors made the facility extremely vulnerable to the eventual outbreak.

Pearlstein's research notes that the facility's baseline mortality rate entering the pandemic ranged between 10 to 12 veterans per month. In the weeks following the outbreak, the home's superinten-

dent, Bennett Walsh, came under fire for his suspected role in the outbreak, but Pearlstein's report emphasizes that he is not solely to blame.

"Standing alone, neither the existence nor even the extensive scope of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers' Home demonstrate the the home's leaders – Superintendent Bennett Walsh and his clinical and administrative teams – failed in their mission, or that the Commonwealth's oversight of the home was insufficient," said Pearlstein.

However, the report states that the facility failed to adhere to several of the existing public health recommendations that were set in place at the onset of the pandemic. Pearlstein's report states several errors facilitated the astonishing death toll.

"Indeed, some of the critical decisions made by Walsh and his leadership team during the final two weeks of March 2020 were utterly baffling from an infection-control perspective and were inconsistent with the home's mission to treat its veterans with honor and dignity," according to the report.

The report continues on, noting that Walsh was not qualified to manage a long-term care facility, was ill-chosen for the job and that his "shortcomings" were well-known to DVS, which failed to act.

Walsh's "most substantial" error occurred on March 27 when the facility was low staffed during an evening shift.

"A decision [was made] on March 27, 2020 to move all veterans from one of the two locked dementia units (2-North) into the other locked dementia unit (1-North), where they would be crowded in with the veterans already living there," reads the report.

At the time, each unit had veterans who were COVID-19 positive, some

who were suspected of having the disease and others who were displaying no COVID-19 symptoms. Rather than isolating those with the disease from those who were asymptomatic – a basic tenant of infection control – the consolidation of these two units resulted in more than 40 veterans crowded into a space designed to hold 25. This overcrowding was the opposite of infection control."

One nurse described the ensuing hours and days as being "total pandemonium." A recreational therapist on scene likened the sensation to "walking [the veterans] to their death" and added that the veterans were "terrified."

Another employee compared the atmosphere of the consolidated unit to a "battlefield tent" while another described it as "a war zone."

A social worker is quoted in the report as saying, "It was surreal... I don't know how the staff over in that unit, how many of us will ever recover from those images. You want to talk about never wanting this to happen again."

The report states Walsh failed to inform the state of the worsening situation and accuses him of "conveying inaccurate or incomplete information about the Home's response efforts." That said, the report does not state that the facility withheld cases or deaths from the Commonwealth.

In the report, Pearlstein emphasized that the state did not influence the investigation, nor did it redact portions of the report, which concludes that "the Soldiers' Home leadership team made substantial errors in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak."

Furthermore, the report characterizes the decision to consolidate the dementia units as being "catastrophic." It cites witness reports stating that the unit was "hot"

and that dying veterans were "crammed in on top of each other."

During the investigation, only Chief Nursing Officer Vanessa Lauziere took responsibility for contributing to the decision to consolidate the two units. Pearlstein's report casts heavy doubt that Lauziere acted alone.

"We find this not to be credible, and at the very least [Medical Director] Dr. David Clinton was aware (or should have been aware) of the move and did nothing to stop it... Walsh indicates that he was advised of the decision and did nothing to probe or evaluate whether this dramatic step was appropriate," says the report.

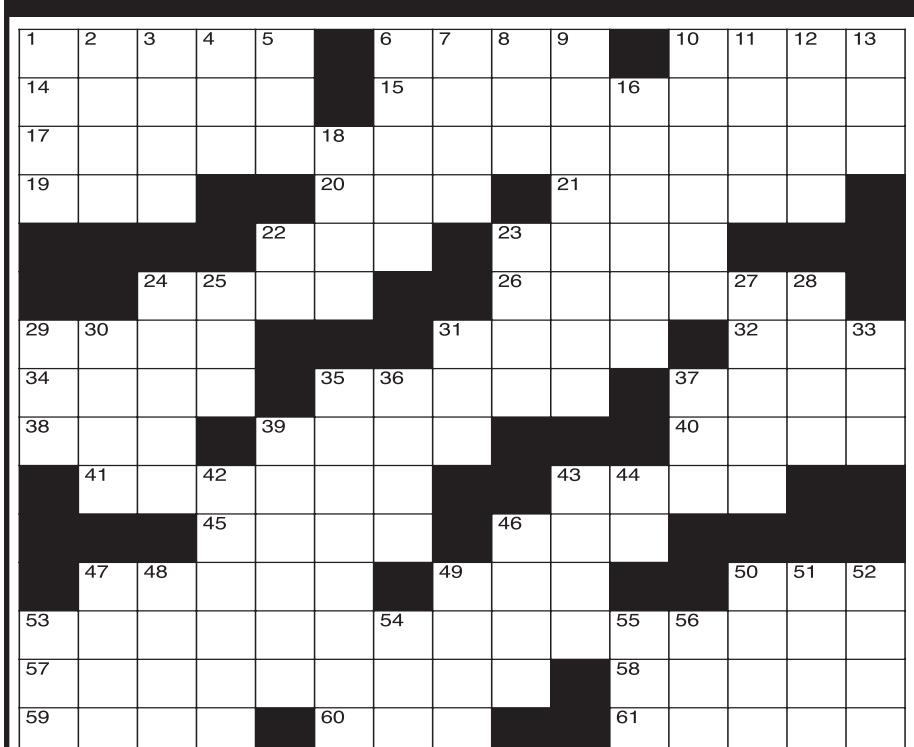
In the days following the release of the report, Walsh challenged Pearlstein's findings. Walsh, who has been on administrative leave since late March, is adamant that he has been unfairly condemned.

Baker has made it clear that he plans to fire Walsh in the near future. Walsh does not believe that such an action is warranted.

A statement released by former Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett on behalf of Walsh states, "It is clear that Mr. Walsh reached out for help when the crisis erupted. He indeed did request National Guard medical assistance. The failure of the Commonwealth to affirmatively respond to that request contributed to many of the problems outlined in the report."

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling is still investigating the tragedy, as is Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. House Speaker Robert DeLeo announced on June 22 that House lawmakers also plan to investigate the tragic loss of life at the Soldiers' Home.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).



## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cyprinids
- 6. Icelandic literary works
- 10. Break in half
- 14. Japanese mushroom
- 15. Have offspring
- 17. Not feeling well
- 19. A very large body of water
- 20. Witch
- 21. Behemoth
- 22. Speak negatively of
- 23. Absence of difficulty
- 24. Pampering places
- 26. Drives
- 29. Truck that delivers beer
- 31. Makes
- 32. A team's best pitcher
- 34. Carvey, comedian
- 35. Seas
- 37. S. American plants
- 38. Time zone
- 39. Deviate
- 40. No longer are
- 41. Moving in slowly

## CLUES DOWN

- 43. Patrick and Glover are two
- 45. Living quarters
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Not happy
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Give way to anxiety
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2K lbs.
- 61. Word of farewell
- 1. \_\_\_ ex Machina
- 2. WWII diarist Frank
- 3. Concluding passage
- 4. Supplement with difficulty
- 5. Title of respect
- 6. Cubic measures
- 7. Remnant
- 8. \_\_\_ Jones
- 9. Salts of acetic acid
- 10. Long, upholstered seat
- 11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
- 12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
- 13. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 16. Propels upward
- 18. What we are talking about
- 22. Prosecutor
- 23. Employee stock ownership plan
- 24. He brings kids presents
- 25. Burmese monetary unit
- 27. Hurries
- 28. Injury remnant
- 29. Tooth caregiver
- 30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane
- 31. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 33. Midway between east and southeast
- 35. Most excellent
- 36. Heat units
- 37. Possess legally
- 39. Food items
- 42. Skeletal structures
- 43. Challenge to do something bold
- 44. Blood type
- 46. Sammy \_\_\_, songwriter
- 47. Farmer (Dutch)
- 48. Clare Booth \_\_\_, American writer
- 49. Piers Anthony's protagonist
- 50. Malaysian coastal city
- 51. Hairstyle
- 52. NY-based department store
- 53. Geosciences organization (abbr.)
- 54. Brazilian city
- 55. Niger-Congo languages
- 56. Gesture

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

## MAIL IN VOTING from page 1

Vote by Mail applications must be delivered to the local election office no later than four business days before the election. For a State Primary ballot, your application must reach your local election office no later than August 26. For a State Election ballot, an application must reach the local election office no later than October 28.

For those who wish to vote by mail, people are strongly encouraged to return an application as early as possible, to make sure that they will receive their ballot in time to return it and have it be counted.

Vote by Mail applications are available for download and may also be requested by contacting the Elections Division.

### Early Voting

To assist with limiting crowding at polling places, there will be additional days of early voting this year.

In-person voting for the September 1 State Primary will take place over eight days, with seven days of early voting being held August 22 to 28. All cities and towns will be required to offer early voting on

Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23.

In-person voting for the November 3 State Election will take place over 15 days, with 14 days of early voting being held October 17 to 30. All cities and towns will be required to offer early voting on Saturday, October 17, Sunday, October 18, Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25.

Early voting schedules and locations will be posted at [www.MassEarlyVote.com](http://www.MassEarlyVote.com) at least one week before early voting begins.

### Emergency Ballots

If you have been admitted to a healthcare facility within seven days of an election, or you have been instructed by a medical professional or public health official to self-quarantine in your home within seven days of an election, you may use the absentee ballot application to designate someone to pick up your emergency absentee ballot, deliver it to you, and return it to your local election official.

There is no deadline to submit an application for an emergency ballot, but your ballot must be returned to your local election office by the close of polls.

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For more information on business coverage for the Town Reminder, please email [townreminder@turley.com](mailto:townreminder@turley.com).

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# Five Granby teens earn Girl Scouts Gold Award

**GRANBY** – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) honored five Granby teens – now Gold Award Girl Scouts – in a unique ceremony at the Northfield Drive-In on June 18.

Projecting their accomplishments and speeches on the big screen, family, friends and GSCWM staff were able to safely witness and celebrate the capstone of the girls' Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Their projects earned them the organizations highest award and one of the most prestigious awards in the world for girls.

GSCWM CEO, Pattie Hallberg, and GSCWM Board President, Joan Bertrand, were on stage to congratulate each girl from a safe distance. 2019 Gold Award recipient Kelsey Aggrey served as emcee for the evening.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is an honor bestowed upon only six percent of Girl Scouts Nationwide. The Gold Award Girl Scouts are:

Gold Award Girl Scout Julia Gauvin of Granby

**Project:** Care Packages for Those We Care About

Julia turned to the United Service Organizations, or USO, to solicit ideas for her Girl Scout Gold Award project and settled on creating care packages of toiletries to send to service men and women. She worked with her entire school district to collect donations. She even collected donations to cover the overseas shipping of care packages to our men and women serving in

the military around the world and was able to set up funding for the USO to help offset the cost of shipping.

Gauvin is attending Fitchburg State University to pursue a career in nursing. She has also recently enlisted in the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Gold Award Girl Scout Molly Hoffenberg of Granby

**Project:** Animal First Aid Kits

Gifted a pet first aid kit as a preschooler, Hoffenberg probably applied bandages to every pet she encountered in her community. Hoffenberg's love for animals inspired her to create pet first aid emergency care kits as well as an animal first aid kit book. The booklet lists the items any pet lover would need for basic pet injuries and her kits are made available to her local police department's canine unit.

Hoffenberg will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her major is Animal Science.

Gold Award Girl Scout Megan Lempke of Granby

**Project:** Making Smiles Happen

Lempke is helping children feel calmer in hospital rooms with her Girl Scout Gold Award project by giving children something fun and calming to look at during their stay. She created images from classic children's books and movies on ceiling tiles after working through numerous steps and presentations to the local hospital and its administration. Coordinating her project with multiple departments, she was able to add

drawings to ceiling tiles in rooms at Cooley Dickinson Hospital to make children feel more at ease.

Lempke will attend Bryant University in the fall.

Gold Award Girl Scout Audrey O'Connor of Granby

**Project:** Keeping Granby Beautiful

Through her Girl Scout Gold Award project O'Connor inspired a community to take pride in their town and show it through participation in an annual clean-up centered around Earth Day and the "Adopt a Street" project. Through self-made literature distributed to schools, gas stations, grocery stores, and social media posts, Audrey shared the nuances and benefits of removing litter and beautifying a community.

O'Connor will attend St. John's University in Queens, New York as a biology major on the pre-med track.

Gold Award Girl Scout Amelia Weatherbee of Granby

**Project:** Natural Play/Fairy Garden

A weeping willow tree and fond memories of her childhood daycare experience helped shape Weatherbee's Girl Scout Gold Award project. While the tree is gone the daycare center remains and so she set about creating a low maintenance garden of local flora, bird feeders and houses, and a system of tunnels for privacy and play, all in an effort to drive the imagination and creativity of today's children.

Weatherbee will attend Holyoke Community College to major in Graphic Design.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recipients of one of the most prestigious awards in the world for girls. By the time they put the final touches on their seven-step projects, they'll have addressed a significant problem in their community—not only in the short term, but with a plan to sustain the work for years into the future. They're also eligible for college scholarships and to enter the military one rank higher than non-Gold Award Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes girls in grades 9 through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take-Action projects and signifies achievement of the highest recognition for girls in Girl Scouting. It is a recognition that indelibly marks them as accomplished members of their community and the world.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 7,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of 3,800 adult members in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

## GCAM Schedule/ Shows

Program schedules for Channel 12 air in two-week cycles. The following programs have been listed for the weeks of July 9 to July 19

### Monday, July 13

7 a.m. – Yoga for Health  
8 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
9 a.m. - Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry  
10 a.m. – A Quilter's Touch  
11 a.m. – New England Authors  
11:30 p.m. – Smart Boating  
12 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy  
1 p.m. – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe with Todd Carpenter  
1:30 p.m. – Memorial Day 2020  
2 p.m. – The Garage  
2:30 p.m. – Abelvision  
3 p.m. – 2018 Special  
4 p.m. – Granby UCC Mass  
5:00 p.m. – 250<sup>th</sup> Parade  
6:00 p.m. – DinoFest 2019  
7 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy  
7:30 p.m. – Yoga for Health  
8 p.m. – Granby UCC Mass  
9 p.m. – A Quilter's Touch  
10 p.m. – Museum Open House  
11 p.m. – Victory in Europe 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Todd Carpenter  
11:30 p.m. - Memorial Day 2020

### Tuesday, July 14

7 a.m. – Seniors on the Move  
8 a.m. – Alivelhood  
8:30 a.m. – Fast Forward  
10 a.m. – Walk in the Garden  
11 a.m. – Museum Open House  
11:30 a.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
12:30 p.m. – Songspeak  
2 p.m. – 2019 School Event  
4 p.m. – Fast Forward  
5 p.m. – Alivelhood  
5:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
6 p.m. – In the Garden with Liz  
7 p.m. – Songspeak  
8 p.m. – The Granby Journal  
9 p.m. – Science & Technology: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow  
10 p.m. - Charter Day Fireworks

### Wednesday, July 15

7 a.m. – The Garage  
7:30 a.m. – Paint w/Kevin  
8 a.m. – Smart Boating  
8:30 a.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy  
9 a.m. – 2012 Special  
11:00 a.m. – Yoga for Health  
11:30 a.m. Cinemaniacs  
12:30 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
2:00 p.m. – Tai Chi  
2:30 p.m. – Summer Concert  
4:00 p.m. – Yoga For Health  
5:00 p.m. - Museum Open House  
5:30 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
7 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy  
7:30 p.m. – 2013 Special  
8 p.m. – Smart Boating  
9 p.m. - A Quilter's Touch  
10 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
Thursday, July 16

7 a.m. – Tai Chi  
8 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
9 a.m. – Yoga for Health  
10 a.m. – Abelvision  
11 a.m. – Cinemaniacs  
12 p.m. – Fast Forward

2 p.m. – 2014 Special  
3:30 p.m. - New England Authors  
4 p.m. – Walk in the Garden with Liz  
5 p.m. – Open Mic Poetry  
6 p.m. – Fast Forward  
7 p.m. – Museum Open House  
7:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
9 p.m. – Charter Day Fireworks 2018  
10 p.m. – Charter Day Fire Works 2019

### Friday, July 10 and July 17

7 a.m. – 2016 Special  
9 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
10 a.m. – Yoga for Health  
11 a.m. – Tai Chi  
12 p.m. – GCAM Retro  
1 p.m. – Eat Well, Be Happy  
2 p.m. – 2017 Special  
3 p.m. – Charter Day 2019  
4 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
5 p.m. – GCAM Retro Series  
6 p.m. – A Quilter's Touch  
7 p.m. – Paint w/Kevin  
7:30 p.m. – Memorial Day 2020  
8 p.m. – GCAM Retro Series  
9 p.m. – Museum Open House  
10 p.m. – Local Rock  
11 p.m. – Victory in Europe 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Todd Carpenter  
11:30 p.m. – Memorial Day 2020

### Saturday, July 11 and July 18

7 a.m. – Yoga for Health  
7:30 a.m. – The Garage  
8:30 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry  
9:30 a.m. – Yoga For Health  
10 a.m. – Abelvision  
10:30 a.m. –Fast Forward  
11:30 a.m. – Granby Journal  
12:30 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
1:30 p.m. – The Garage  
2:30 p.m. – WWII History  
3 p.m. – Library Event  
5 p.m. – Library Event  
6 p.m. – GCAM Retro  
7 p.m. – GCAM Shorts  
7:30 p.m. – Cinemaniacs  
8 p.m. – Songspeak  
9 p.m. – GCAM Retro Series  
11 p.m. – Creature Features

### Sunday, July 12 and July 19

7 a.m. – Seniors on the Move  
8 a.m. – Open Mic Poetry  
8:30 a.m. – Tai Chi  
9 a.m. – Yoga For Health  
10 a.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
11 a.m. – GCAM Retro  
12 p.m. – GCAM Retro  
1 p.m. – Healthy Bones & Balance  
2 p.m. – Tracing Your Family Roots  
3 p.m. – In the Garden w/ Liz  
4 p.m. – Granby UCC Mass  
5 p.m. - Healthy Bones & Balance  
6 p.m. – Granby UCC Mass  
7 p.m. – Fast Forward  
7:30 p.m. – New England Authors  
8 p.m. – Granby UCC Mass  
9 p.m. – Victory in Europe 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Todd Carpenter  
9:30 p.m. – Memorial Day 2020  
10:30 p.m. – Fast Forward  
11 p.m. – Cinemaniac

## Granby to-go seeks donations

**GRANBY** – The Granby To-Go program is asking for your help with donations of children's washable masks for students in the Granby To-Go Program.

We have donation boxes located at Sapowsky's Farm and also at Class

Grass in Granby.

These masks will be distributed before the start of school in August.

Thank you for all of your continued support for this amazing program.

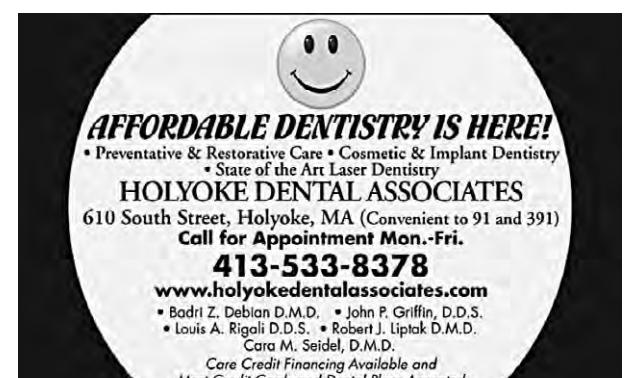
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# Opinion

## GUEST COLUMN

### This is a testing time for us all

By Lee H. Hamilton  
Guest columnist

**A** few weeks ago, The New York Times ran an article noting that with the U.S. preoccupied by the coronavirus pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests and massive unemployment, "its competitors are moving to fill the vacuum, and quickly."

Russia, China, North Korea, Iran... All are testing how far they can go, seeking to exploit our weaknesses and fill the vacuum they perceive in world leadership. Our allies, meanwhile, are expressing dismay at the U.S.'s inability to come to grips with the pandemic—symbolized most acutely by the prospect that Americans will be barred from traveling to a partially reopened Europe this summer—and at our withdrawal from world organizations, treaties, and involvement in places where we have traditionally been central to keeping the peace.

There are good reasons we have turned inward. As a nation, we have botched the response to the coronavirus, as its recent sharp upward trajectory illustrates. We are still feeling our way through the economic impact, with every likelihood that millions of people will be struggling for a long time. And, of course, street protests, concern about policing and turmoil over the nation's racial practices are preoccupying many people's attention.

Any one of these things would have been enough to try us as a country; all together make this a desperately difficult time. We've been through times like this in the past, and no doubt will again in the future, but at this moment, our mettle is being tested as it rarely has been.

Oddly, I find something bracing about this. Not long ago I was meeting with a group of young graduate students, who asked what troubled me most about the problems we confront, and the word that instantly came to mind was "complacency." As Americans, we have a tendency to feel that we've always come through hard times and always will. The result is often a sense that we can leave things to others: to our leaders, to our nonprofits, churches and community groups, to our more involved neighbors. We ourselves don't set out to do the things we know need to be done.

But here's the thing about a representative democracy like ours: it doesn't work unless citizens do their part—and I include our leaders in this. At its heart, it asks of us that we find a niche where we can improve things. It's disheartening to see recent polls that suggest huge percentages of Americans believe things in the country are out of control—80% of respondents in a recent NBC News/Wall St. Journal poll—but it's heartening to know there's something we can do about it: the country won't be out of control if each of us steps up to the challenges we see in our own neighborhoods and our nation.

I began my political career because I felt like I needed to do something to help my community in southern Indiana and didn't know where to start. So, I asked my precinct committeeman, who enlisted me to go door to door to try to get voters involved. That led eventually to Congress, and ultimately to a committee chairmanship trying to resolve some of the country's knottiest foreign affairs challenges. You never know where these things are going to lead.

My point in saying this is that we can all start somewhere. We are divided as a nation on political, economic, and racial lines. We face the existential challenge of climate change. Many of us on both the right and the left worry about a lack of moral perspective in how we approach our problems. All of these are ripe for actions that we, as individuals, can take. If you're white, for instance, how much time have you spent talking to Black people or Latinos about the hostility and difficulties they face? Making the effort to understand as best you can is an important step toward recognizing how deep-seated these problems are, and at the same time how they might be overcome.

This time of testing is an opportunity. It's a

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 7



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Divest for yourself as well as the world

I would like to urge people to divest any stocks in fossil fuels. The most important reason for this is that fossil fuels are killing our world. The climate cannot support our continued use of this source of power. It is also a very bad idea in terms of your own financial well-being. They are becoming stranded assets. For example, the coal fired power plant in Holyoke at Mount Tom was shut down, taken down and has now become a large solar array. This large structure which had become useless was now a stranded asset. If you had stock in it, you lost money.

Now the same thing is happening with natural gas as solar/wind renewables become cheaper, heat pumps take over home

heating and energy storage grows. Neither the world nor our pocketbooks need any more fracking or pipelines. As electric cars take over our roads the same fate will come to the oil companies. Little by little all the oil wells, platforms at sea and oil refineries will become less and less needed.

If you have money in coal, oil or natural gas it is rather like investing in a buggy whip factory just as Mr. Ford started to build the model T. They are both a bad idea morally and financially. Our air, water and earth are our best investment now.

John Howard

## GUEST COLUMN

### What it something that was said?

**M**ore often than not, normal conversations are back-and-forth discussions. The dialogue is often productive and meaningful. In lonely contrast, a monologue is usually described as a single statement spoken by one person.

Apparently spoken words can actually enhance different situations and there's no two ways about it.

Perhaps you've heard the expression, "A one way conversation is for the birds." True. It's hard to listen for an answer when talking to birds, or talking to yourself. Yet, I must admit, that the only bird that I've heard talk was in my earliest years on Planet Earth. The wordy birdy was Pete, our blue and yellow parakeet. And, the extent of his repeated vocabulary was "pretty boy."

However, in our cozy, little corner of the world, the conversations are still continuing about and with our home's entrance-light-nested, parenting barn swallows. Their lifestyles are domestically and aeronautically impressive. During the day they swoop and scoop for insects from God's nourishing ground. At night they settle over newly-hatched nestlings for a summer time snooze.

The stop and chat conversations, from Barn Swallow parents to persons, is still ongoing! So, whenever we go outside to the car, there's a protocol.

Tap. Tap. We rap on our inside door before leaving to warn them, so that the little nestlings aren't startled. Then the parents dart from their nest. As we walk toward the car, they soar in overhead flight patterns,



By Joan E. B. Coombs

performing and showing off their soaring skills with widespread wings they flaunt their forked tails. After zooming in for a touchdown landing on our white-globe lawn lantern, they perch only feet from us, looking in our direction, they wait with un-baited breath for our greetings.

"WELL, HELLO! How's your day going?"

Each barn swallow stands on spindle legs, with titled heads — as if attentive to our cheerful, soft-spoken words. As our conversation ensues, they reply by fluffing their feathers. When our bird-to-human dialogue is over, after getting into our car and looking back — they are still there watching our every move.

Also, other home-turf conversations are said to be beneficial. In fact, since the mid 1800s there's a theory that talking to plants is one of the ways to help them grow. (Now that's a down-to-earth monologue for sure. Yes. I've certainly had words with outdoor plants, mainly asking, "Please grow enough to crowd out the weeds.")

Other times I've conversed well by whispering sweet somethings to my indoor plants. "Goodness! You look a little dry today!" So, I gushed water over them. (Although I talked often to my house plants, it remains a mystery why most of them went to "plant heaven.")

Whether it's those earlier talks to plants — or if it's these recent chats with barn swallows, (even if one-way conversations) — do you suppose it was because of something that was said?

## A QUOTE

### of NOTE

**“**How can I pivot and be resilient and try to make change so that I can continue serving my customers with a service I think that they absolutely need right now. But I still have rent at the space I created when I could do it at full-capacity. I still have all the bills to pay, and this is my livelihood. **”**

Michele Lyman, owner of Serenity Yoga in the story "Sweating it out, Local gyms and yoga studios talk Phase III"

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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## GUEST COLUMN

# Rabbits, rabbits and more rabbits

Dorothy from South Hadley has a bunny problem! She has asked for some advice and I have the perfect column waiting in the archives. I have written on this subject before and will probably be moved to write about it again sometime in the future. Here is it is and it's worth a chuckle.

Rabbits have chomped on the chard, crunched on the carrots and bitten the beets, the broccoli and beans. Despite what I said in articles past, they have even mowed the marigolds...down to nothing. Yes, that one bunny of two summers ago, somehow, as rabbits would, had amazingly turned into four by early summer, last season. Then, as if a miracle happened in my own yard, all but one disappeared. We went into the winter watching a lone rabbit, grazing at dusk and dawn on the clover in the back yard. Ah, how pretty.

Fast forward to this spring. At last count, we have six rabbits in all areas of the landscape. We play a game on the back porch only to be interrupted by the kids shouting: "Look, a bunny!" Over and over again. We go out the front door and spook one in the flower garden. They taunt me as I hang the laundry. Not even the sprinkler sends them running anymore! As my husband jokingly offers up

all sorts of ways to disperse them, I think about the tactics that have worked in the past.

Back at the old house I never had a problem with rabbits in my garden until after the dog died. It would be safe to assume that "the marking of his territory" had something to do with keeping the bunnies at bay. Outside of dog urine, there are lots of other deterrents out there that folks swear by. One is dried blood. The smell signals danger. To be effective it must be reapplied each week as well as after it rains. You can either sprinkle a narrow band around the perimeter of the border or place containers of it in the garden. Dried blood is a nitrogen fertilizer and is available at most garden centers. It will burn sensitive plants if applied directly on top of them, so sprinkle it a few inches away from the base. Along the same line would be ammonia sprays. I have also heard of different home brews that you may, or may not want to whip up in your blender. One consists of garlic, hot peppers and marigold (Ha!) leaves; may-

be this combination would work better than the other tactics already tried. Again, these would need to be replenished periodically.

A less attractive but better option to control rabbits would be to install a wire fence. It should be at least three feet tall and dug into the ground four inches or more. Be sure that the fence is fine enough so that the rabbit's head won't fit through the holes as the unfortunate rabbit that is able to fit his head may think that the rest of his body will follow suit. When it doesn't, panic

ensues and the result is not something I would want anyone to find in his or her garden a day later. Just ask my husband.

Rabbits will eat almost anything except for prickly plants, hairy plants and strong-smelling/tasting plants. For prickly plants think globe thistle (*echinops ritro*); blue globes bloom in early July. Sea holly (*eryngium maritimum*) is another similar plant. As far as hairy plants go, rudbeckias would top the list. Black-eyed susan (*R. hirta*) is one of the most common members of this genus. Two of my favorite cultivars are the extra-large

flowered "Indian summer" and the lime green disked "Irish eyes"- both untouched in my garden. Strong-smelling/tasting plants include bee balm (*monarda didyma*), catmint (*nepeta racemosa*), yarrow (*achillea millefolium*) and garlic and onions among others. In fact I read of one gardener having great success keeping rabbits away from her flowering plants by planting a living fence of garlic in between them. This summer, when it came time to clip the scapes off of my garlic plants, I collected the stems and dispersed them in and amongst the broccoli. It worked for a time being, probably as long as the scapes held their stink.

The best solution for us would be a fence or two. Until then, if you hear "Go!" and "Get outa here!" coming from my house, you'll know why!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## HAMILTON from page 6

chance to shake off the complacency we'd settled into, and to exercise the gift that our system gives us: the ability to make a difference.

*Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for*

*the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

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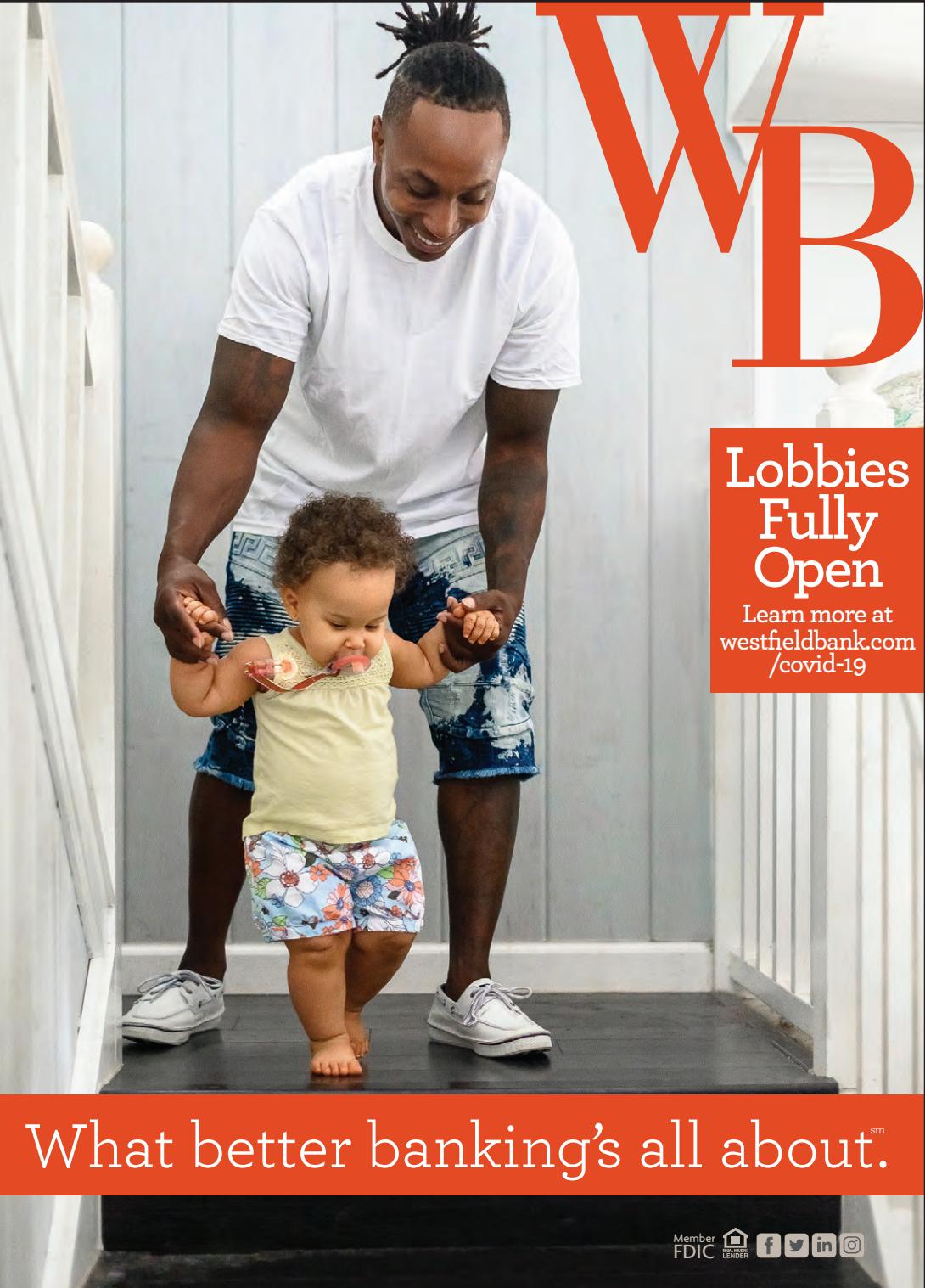
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April Marion, owner of Get Movin' Fitness, measures the waist of a client, Cheryl Davidson, on July 8. The fitness studio offers nutritional classes designed for weight loss.

### LOCAL GYMS from page 1

scheduled for April 3. She said Get Movin' Fitness was well-prepared to pivot when the shutdowns began in mid-March.

"A big problem for a lot of business folks is how long can you sustain this reduced capacity," said Lyman, who has lost 40 percent of her revenue stream. "How can I pivot and be resilient and try to make change so that I can continue serving my customers with a service I think that they absolutely need right now. But I still have rent at the space I created when I could do it at full capacity. I still have all the bills to pay, and this is my livelihood."

Serenity Yoga moved into its new building last year, increasing its space by 400 percent in comparison to its former location. All was well until the pandemic arrived; Lyman is working to keep the studio alive.

"I almost closed the doors; I almost gave up," she said. "I started realizing in early May that this was not going to be over anytime soon. Not knowing how long this is going to be, that's an uncertainty that makes me assume that we'll be in this position until there's a vaccine or a drug to help people get better once they get the virus. My best guess is that we won't have that resolved until early next year."

Marion also relocated her business just prior to the pandemic's arrival; her grand opening was

on Monday.

"We wanted our students to be able to keep that momentum going," said Marion. "We followed up with phone calls to make sure that they knew how to get online because it helped us too to stay out of a rut. That's what kept us going; being able to help keep our students going. When you enter our studio, we want you to leave anything that's bothering you at the door."

Serenity Yoga launched its virtual platform three days after shutting its doors. Lyman explained why her business' services are critical during a tense and unpredictable period of time.

"Man, you learn a lot about yourself in a crisis. Unfortunately, when you slow down, things come up that you no longer pay a lot of attention to," she said. "Emotions, unresolved feelings and those kinds of things come up. Yoga has an incredible way of bringing you to the present moment and getting you out of your head and getting you grounded."

Marion, a trained fitness instructor and certified nutritional mentor, is of a similar opinion. In addition to exercise, her programs are centered around encouraging healthy eating habits.

She explained the importance of keeping the business up, running virtually and outdoors and encouraging students to visit the studio, which reopened its doors

on Monday.

"We wanted our students to be able to keep that momentum going," said Marion. "We followed up with phone calls to make sure that they knew how to get online because it helped us too to stay out of a rut. That's what kept us going; being able to help keep our students going. When you enter our studio, we want you to leave anything that's bothering you at the door."

Serenity Yoga has not yet reopened its facility to the public; Lyman expects to open in mid-July with limited class sizes. She shared the reasoning behind her strategy, citing the "strict rules and regulations" that are mandated by Phase III.

"It's 14 feet apart and eight people per 1,000 square feet. We are doing the math and trying to figure out how to reopen our doors following all these protocols," said Lyman. "The last thing I want to do is get people in my studio and have a problem. I don't want to rush it because we have the green light. I want to keep my community safe; that's the number one concern."

Nervous about losing her business, Lyman created a GoFundMe for Serenity Yoga, which can be accessed at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-serenity-yoga-studio>.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com).



Get Movin' Fitness owner April Marion poses with her business partner, Charlene Resnick, on Wednesday morning at the Granby Street facility.



Courtesy photos

It may be a long time before Serenity Yoga hosts an indoor session similar to the one pictured above, which occurred at the College Street studio prior to the pandemic.



Serenity Yoga on College Street is offering virtual classes but has yet to open its facility.

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# In the Classroom

## Living through history

*Local elementary students share their thoughts on COVID-19*

SOUTH HADLEY – Much like the rest of the world, children have gone through the pandemic and are experiencing history being made from their homes.

Third graders from Mosier Elementary School were tasked with a writing assignment about their thoughts and feelings surrounding COVID-19, according to teacher Allyson Saul.

This poem could be in any form the students wished and submissions included haiku, acrostic, shape, free verse and rhyming poems. The assignment was created by Leah McCarthy.

### By Annabelle Forges

Cool  
Awkward  
Rare  
Outside  
Not too amazing  
At the wrong time  
  
Virus  
It is not fun staying home.  
Right in my state  
Unbelievable  
Serious

### By Noah Scibelli

We have been at home a lot.  
Mom is home with us.  
It's strange to wear a mask.  
Sometimes it feels itchy.  
I miss my friends and my school.  
I want to go back.  
Sometimes I am sad.  
But Mom tells me we have to stay safe.  
We play in our yard.  
Just me and my brother.  
It's like summer.  
But I still have to do math.

### By Colin MacGregor

Cooking  
Outside fun  
Reading  
Outrageous  
Not as much fun  
Awesome in some ways  
Videos  
Important to stay safe  
Running  
Ups and downs  
Staying home.

### By Jenna Holmes

Coronavirus is here, we will not cheer  
We have to wear masks, we can't see  
our each other  
It is not cool we can't go to school  
6 feet away, we can not play  
We are stuck in the house I hope  
there's no mouse  
I do not like Corona

### By Lily Page

Sadness is in the air, Sadness is in my heart, Sadness is even on the table next to my shop. Sadness is flooding, Sadness is lying, Sadness is jumping, Sadness is crying, and it is even in the world.

### By Jaydalee Otero-Concepcion

Hello home for 10 time been  
in the house,  
If you don't mind I'm in a quarantine  
stuck in a house.  
Looking outside it's cold in this house,  
can you turn the heater up for  
the 50th time.  
I'm in the room on the on the bed  
doing my work,  
I drink some water as I continue  
my work.  
As I let out a sigh I go get something  
to eat I let out a beat.

## Belchertown resident receives top rank in Letters about Literature

### BELCHERTOWN –

For twenty years, Massachusetts Center for the Book has invited students from grades 4 to 12 to write letters to authors about the books that have had profound effects on them.

MCB is pleased to announce another successful year for Letters About Literature, its flagship reading and writing initiative for young people.

In Level 3 (Grades 9 to 12) Analua Alencar Moreira, of Belchertown, received a Top Honor for her letter to Sherman Alexie about "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven."

Moreira is an 11th grader Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School student. She is a part of the teen writing program and sits on the Teen Advisory Board at the Clapp Memorial Library.

Moreira explained why she chose to write to Alexie Sherman.

"When thinking about writers who have inspired me or changed the way I perceive writing and the world as a whole, there are many who come to mind," she wrote. "What made Sherman Alexie stand out in particular was that after I was so deeply impacted by his writing, I found out that he used his status in order to take advantage of numerous women who have come forward in the midst of the #metoo movement."

In her letter, Moreira addresses her desire to be a writer – to create and imagine



Analua Alencar Moreira

new things.

"I hope that someday I can open one of your books, but right now, looking at your picture on the back cover makes me sick," she wrote in her letter. "I try to reconcile the idea that the writer who showed me what kind of writer I wanted to be took advantage of young women whose dreams I shared. I try to reconcile the notion that your writing is still unpar-

alleled in my mind without feeling guilty, without feeling like a traitor. I find myself once again lost: what lay behind the one-way mirror that was the word 'writer' was not what I wanted. Then, I remember that writing is not a mirror up to nature; writing is a window, a trapdoor. Writing is imagination. I am my own escape."

In an interview, Moreira added, "There are so many things I can say about so many authors whose work or works have changed me - Erin Morgenstern, Benjamin Alire Saenz and Zora Neale Hurston, to name a few - but I had unfinished business with Sherman Alexie, now more than ever feels like a culturally relevant time to share that story."

Boasting a 25 percent increase in participation this year, the center received thousands of submissions from all corners of the Commonwealth. Thoughtful and articulate observations were written to time-honored literary figures such as Louisa May Alcott and Harper Lee, and to contemporary authors such as Jerry Craft and Sharon M. Draper.

**Submissions are always welcome**  
Send your stories and photos to [townreminder@turley.com](mailto:townreminder@turley.com)

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## Crossword puzzle answers



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# Janice Beetle Books launches Poem Pods

EASTHAMPTON—Janice Beetle of Janice Beetle Books will launch a 20-day series of free podcasts for children and families on her website at [JaniceBeetleBooks.com](http://JaniceBeetleBooks.com) starting June 22.

Called Poem Pods, the homegrown broadcasts are narrated by Beetle and her “feisty” 11-year-old grandson Eli.

A blog that will post on June 22 will offer a complete Poem Pod schedule, outlining posting dates, the names of interviewees, conversation topics and that day’s activities. The pods themselves will begin on June 23 and post daily through July 12.

“As Eli and I say in our homegrown broadcasts, Poem Pods are fun poems and fun stories for fun people,” Beetle said. “My hope is that they give children encouragement, entertainment and inspiration to get them thinking creatively as a summer without camps and public swimming pools begins.”

Poem Pods are theme-based and explore concepts like family, friendship, inspiration, vulnerability, fears and asking for help. When the day’s poem is about family, for instance, Beetle and her grandson discuss the importance of family, and they interview a family.

At the start of each segment, Beetle and her grandson talk about Beetle’s writing inspirations and education, starting when she was six years old, and her grandmother gave her a notebook.

The poems, written by Beetle years ago for her two daughters, are short and silly and cover topics from dogs and cats to family, raindrops, love and friendship. They follow the introductory conversation and are in the middle of

the podcast.

“Much like a pea is in the center of a pea pod,” Beetle said.

After the day’s poems are read, Beetle and her grandson have conversations on that day’s theme and offer children an activity. And in 11 of the pods, they bring on a guest, and Eli conducts an interview that extends the discussion.

The interviews also offer a closer look at the inspirations of others along with an education into what it’s like to be a writer, a medical professional or an air traffic controller, for instance.

Along with each audio post, each episode will also feature a written transcript in the blog feed for those who would rather read than listen. Or, some could choose to listen while reading along.

To receive an email when the Poem Pod schedule posts, and to receive each day’s new Poem Pod post, sign up for the blog at [JaniceBeetleBooks.com](http://JaniceBeetleBooks.com).

Beetle is a longtime writer and editor from Western Massachusetts. Janice Beetle Books LLC centers around book development and publishing and is based in Easthampton.

Through Janice Beetle Books, Beetle works with writers of all skill levels—as well as nonwriters—to help them carry a book idea through to publication. She also offers writing coaching services.

Beetle, of Easthampton, holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Westfield State College. She also runs Beetle Press, a PR firm offering writing, editing and digital marketing services to business owners and leaders of nonprofit organizations.

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Noah Gould is a recent graduate of Grove City College

GROVE CITY, PA — Noah Gould is one of 449 seniors to earn their degree from Grove City College on May 16, 2020. Gould earned a Bachelor of Arts degree Economics and is from Granby.

Students names to Dean’s List at Grove City College

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester at Grove City College: Noah Gould of Granby Dean’s List with Distinction and Sam Gould of Granby .

Students eligible for the Dean’s List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean’s List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean’s List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

Grove City College ([www.gcc.edu](http://www.gcc.edu)) is a highly ranked, nationally recognized private liberal arts and sciences college that equips students to pursue their unique callings through an academically excellent and Christ-centered learning and living experience distinguished by a commitment to affordability and promotion of the Christian worldview, the foundations of a free society and the love of neighbor. Established in 1876, the College is a pioneer in independent private education and accepts no federal funds. It offers students degrees in 60 majors on a picturesque 180-acre campus north of Pittsburgh, Pa.

grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

“This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic,” said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. “Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs.”

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester. Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs—each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. For more information about Assumption College, please visit [www.assumption.edu](http://www.assumption.edu).

### Madeline Humphrey graduates from College of Charleston

CHARLESTON, SC — Madeline Humphrey of Granby, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality/Tourism Management from College of Charleston in May 2020. Humphrey was among the more than 1,500 students who received degrees.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina, the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university.

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## Rams were set to be led by Frappier



Julia Frappier heads toward the sideline as she moves up the field. She had her 100<sup>th</sup> career goal in the match against Monson on Patriots Day last year.

**GRANBY** – In Division 3, Granby High School girls lacrosse was an emerging powerhouse with a lineup that knew how to score goals. Despite falling in the quarterfinals of last year's tournament and graduating several talented players, Granby was set to return with plenty of experience on the field. But they did only have one senior, that in returner Julia Frappier. Frappier would have ended a long career of success in multiple sports at Granby. Frappier also achieved 100 goals with girls lacrosse in just three years.



Julia Frappier backs up before making a deep pass during a playoff game last year.



File photos  
Julia Frappier sprints right up the sideline during regular season action.

### Quabbin Valley League calls off 2020 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

EASTHAMPTON – While some leagues are looking to start up play in Phase 3, one league will not be anymore.

The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League announced over the weekend that despite being scheduled to begin an eight-week season on July 12, the league was closing for at least the 2020 season.

The league has historically had six teams made up of 14-player rosters. The league recently changed its rules to allow players who are 28 and over, with the caveat that you must over 30 to pitch in the league.

There is a portion of the league's players that 45 or older, and that had led some players to decline to play due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. Other players who opted out of the season for various reasons, including having pregnant wives, or other personal situations that dictated they not play this season.

When those tallies were taken, Quabbin League President Eric Castonguay posted on the league website that the league was set to begin the season with just five of its normal six teams.

"We were going to have five teams and just have each team take a bye week," said Castonguay.

The league even began open-

### Fellows wins three in a row



Craig Lutz got the win in the Tri-Track 100.

WINCHESTER, NH: This past Sunday afternoon (July 5), Monadnock hosted the Tri Track 100 where Craig Lutz came out on top for the victory. Other winners included: Nathan Wenzel (Granby, Ma), Jaret Curtis (Rutland, Ma), Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) and Ben Byrne (Deerfield, Ma).

The Mini Stocks kicked off the day's racing events with their 25-lap event. Nathan Wen-

zel showed the field he was the man to beat on this day. Louis Maher III took the green to lead the field. Maher while going into turn one pushed up and allowed Wenzel to stick his machine on the inside of Maher and come out with the lead. "We had a fast car today; I wasn't sure how we would do today. Things just worked out for us," finished up Wenzel in victory lane. Rounding out the top five were Ma-



Nathan Wenzel, a resident of Granby, MA, also picked up a win during the event.



Ben Byrne took the victory in the Modified event.

her, Shelby Avery, Kevin Clayton and Ethan Marsh. The win moves Wenzel in the number two-point spot (eight points) behind Gordon Farnum, who leads the points battle. Maher and Tim LeBlanc took down heat wins.

The 50-lap NHSTRA Modifieds were next. Ben Byrne started on the pole in the By-

rne Towing #6 machine. As the green flag waved to start the event, Byrne shot to the lead as was untouchable throughout the event, leading wire to wire. Todd Patnode and Brian Robie completed the top three. "We were pretty lucky today and we

Please see **RACING**, page 12

### Distancing, disinfecting paramount for return to gyms

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

REGION – For Western and Central Massachusetts, the return of recreational and organized sports has been long awaited, but it is not clear just how much of a return to action there will be.

Phase 3 of the Massachusetts re-opening plan has begun on Monday and the big difference between that and Phase 2 was the ability to for teams and leagues to transition from having practices

to having actual contests.

Included in Phase 3 is also the ability to have limited crowds for youth sports. Adult leagues have the ability to also activate, with some baseball leagues set to begin play this week.

Also for sports enthusiasts, gym and fitness centers can also open with limited capacity and several guidelines.

Here are some helpful tips for you if you are returning to work out at your local gym.

Various equipment in gym

must be at least 14 feet apart unless there is plexiglass or other physical barriers placed between the equipment. If that happens, the equipment need only be six feet apart. Equipment affected includes weights, machines, treadmills, and bikes.

The face covering rule is modified slightly.

If possible, those working out should wear a face mask. However, if the strenuous activity a participant is doing requires them to take the mask off, they must

remain 14 feet away from others. When wearing a face mask, normal six feet social distancing is advised.

"Circuit training," the use of multiple machines, is discouraged and should be limited. Customers should be trying to use just one piece of equipment at a time.

For those who are into classes such as spinning, yoga, or Zumba, gyms are allowed to have

Please see **GYMS**, page 12

## Senior athletes features wrapping up

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department will soon be wrapping up its features on senior spring athletes.

If you have not seen your senior or their sport featured, we encourage you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

## PVSSL season still delayed

**REGION** — The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League released a quick update at the beginning of the week in conjunction with Phase 3. League co-commissioner Dianna Kolodziey said the league is still waiting for some guidance from the state before engaging in actual games. The league is hoping to begin as soon as possible once it receives that guidance from the state. For updates, you can also go to [www.pioneervalleysummer-soccerleague.com](http://www.pioneervalleysummer-soccerleague.com).

### RACING from page 11

had a real fast car. That's just the start for us today as we have another hundred laps to race later on this afternoon," commented Byrne in victory lane. In fact, the trio all qualified for the high paying Tri Track event later that evening. Trevor Bleau and Cameron Houle rounded out the top five. Heat wins went to Byrne and JT Cloutier. Robie with his third-place finish gives him a four-point lead in the points battle.

Jaret Curtis outlasted the field to take

**REGION** — All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport

tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

"We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the utmost importance to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times," says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year."

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. The specific sport pages on the Bay State Games website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration.

For more information, please visit [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org). Please direct all questions and inquiries to [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org).

## Valley Wheel still seeking players as season starts

**REGION** — The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday

games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league concluded tryouts, but is still looking for players for a shortened season, which was set to begin July 9. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good

### QUABBIN BASEBALL from page 11

ing registration back up and collecting league fees before it had to shut it back down.

Castonguay said two more of the teams informed the league four days after registration had re-opened that it would not have enough players to field teams. Signups were not full enough in order to be able to backfill the other teams or even make four teams, prompting the league to post this message to its players and prospective players on Sunday morning.

"Registration for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League is closed until the 2021 Season. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the league has been compelled to cancel the 2020 season entirely. We would expect and hope that the 2021 season would revert to our normal format, with at least 6 teams in a full season starting at the end of April. As to 2020 league fees, unless any players wish to have a refund, fees will be credited to the 2021 season."

Castonguay said the full year off and the various concerns with the coronavirus make it hard to predict how things

will be next year, and he could not comment on how the 2021 season will look other than to hope the league will return with its full complement of teams.

The league typically played its games in Easthampton's Nonotuck Park, with games in Agawam, South Hadley, Belchertown, and Monson in recent years. The league featured a football-style playoff format where all six teams were granted playoffs games. The first two seeds would receive byes with the semifinals featuring 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 and the winners heading to play the top two seeds the following week.

### GYMS from page 11

them, but are still encouraging classes to be held outdoors whenever possible.

Gyms are only allowed to utilize 40 percent of its occupancy on record. There must be signage and other visual advisories letting people know how equipment should be accessed.

Lunch and break times should be staggered for works to keep too many

people out of one place.

All equipment must be sanitized between uses. Customers should not return equipment like weights to racks or containers without sanitizing it.

If you are working with a personal trainer, that trainer has to maintain social distancing and minimize close contact.

Another big thing gyms must do is allow 30 minutes between fitness classes to allow for thorough clean-

ing of those spaces.

Like many other businesses. If a gym has a worker, customer, or vendor with a positive test, the facility should be shut down for at least 24 hours for a full cleaning and disinfecting.

Various gyms will have other individual rules depending on the space. But the basics need to be followed by all in order to maintain smooth workouts for participants.

the speedway will host the annual Firecracker Night featuring the Street Stock Battle for the Belt, the weekly divisions along with fireworks by Atlas. Advanced tickets are recommended and available online at [monadnockspeedway.com](http://monadnockspeedway.com).

### JULY 5, 2020 RESULTS

**NHSTRA Modified Results:** Ben Byrne, Todd Patnode, Brian Robie, Trevor Bleau, Cameron Houle, Solomon Brow, Anthony Bello, Cory Plummer, Jason Houle, Keith Carzello, Kevin Pittsinger, Kim Rivet, Rob Richardi, Jerry Gomarla, Bryan Crunden, Eric LeClair, JT Cloutier, Andy Major, Brian Chapin, Matt Kimball, Scott Bourn, Brad Zahensky

**Street Stock Results:** Jaret Curtis, Dave Greenslit, Chase Curtis, Jimmy Renfrew, Kyle Buck, Chris Buffone, Ed Lofland, Tim Wenzel, Mike Radzuik, Paul Barnard, Chris Riendeau, Robbie Streetner, Bryan Granger, Jon Porter, Eric LeBlond, Hillary Renaud, Troy Waterman, Chris Curtis

**Late Model Sportsman Results:** Aaron Fellows, Robert Hagar, Ryan Bell, Cole Littlewood, Justin Littlewood, Matt Winter, Scott Beck, Camdyn Curtis

**Mini Stock Results:** Nathan Wenzel, Louis Maher II, Shelby Avery, Kevin Clayton, Ethan Marsh, Jared Roy, Tommy Silva, Gordon Farnum, Kevin McKnight, Pat Houle, Ray King, Jeff Asselin, Jake Puchalski, Tim Leblanc

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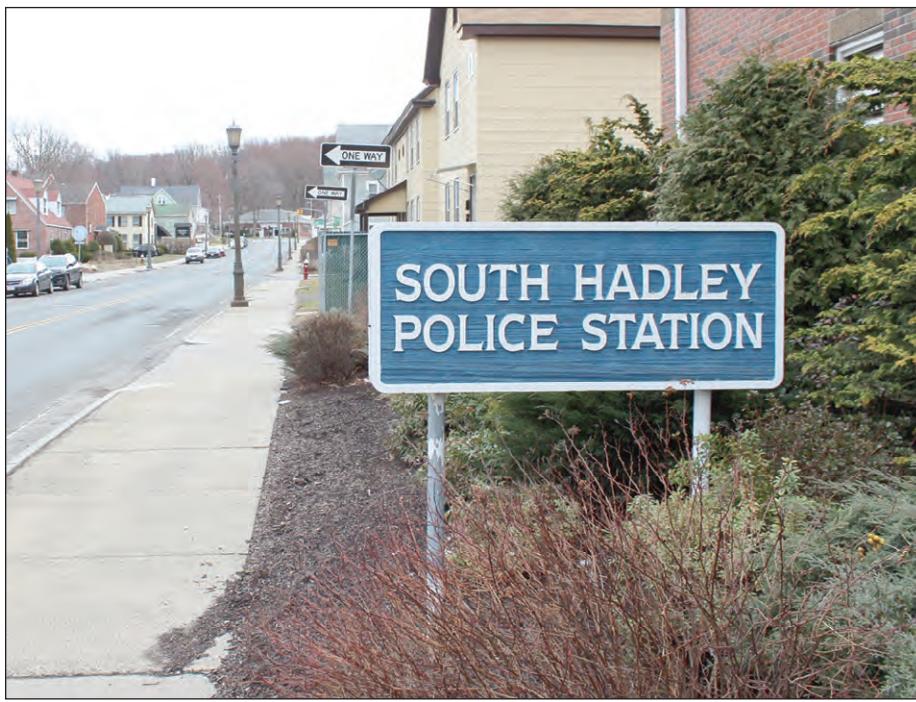
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# Public Safety

## CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

### Serve, protect and connect



Turley Publications staffphoto by Dalton Zbierski

**Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen said the South Hadley Police Department is currently in the process of rewriting its policy manual; 30 policies have been completed thus far.**

**By Dalton Zbierski**  
Staff Writer

**SOUTH HADLEY** – South Hadley police officers are thoroughly committed to serving, protecting and connecting with the community, according to Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen, who is exploring new ways to create and strengthen the bonds that the department forges with local residents.

Gundersen appeared before the South Hadley Selectboard during its June 23 and answered a variety of questions regarding the department's approach to policing. She instructs her officers to not only uphold the law; she also advises them to build up good will in the community.

"I enjoy and appreciate any opportunity that we can put our officers into the community in a positive light; doing positive outreach so our job isn't just enforcement. I think it's important that people see that we are humans too," said Gundersen.

Since Gundersen joined the department in January 2019, there have been no incidents of on-duty behavior that mandated a serious infraction or professional standards. Under her leadership, the department has grown in multiple facets.

"One of our goals is to have a diverse workforce that can help us appreciate the diversity that we come across in our profession," said Gundersen. "One way to do that is by having our in-house be more diverse."

Over the past two years, the department has hired six new officers. Gundersen believes that connecting with townsfolk is an essential part of the job, and the station is beginning to reflect her philosophy.

"Communication is an important part of our police department," said Gundersen. "Two years ago, there were two female police officers; now we have five. Two years ago, we didn't have a black police officer and now we have one. Two years ago, we didn't have anybody who was Hispanic in our dispatch center; now we have two."

Of the 28 officers on the force, all but five have college degrees. All of the officers that have joined the department since Gundersen's arrival either have college degrees or are on track to earn one.

Gundersen believes that the department's demographics are "reflective of our South Hadley community." She added that transparency and availability are "key pillars" for community relations.

The department is currently in the

process of rewriting its policy manual; 30 policies have been completed thus far. When the endeavor is finished, Gundersen aims to publish the manual on the town's website.

Selectboard Chair Jeff Cyr asked about the recent history of complaints against South Hadley officers and how they were handled. Several months ago, the department released it's a new policy pertaining to the investigation of officer incidents.

"It's a pretty substantial rewrite that I had done to ensure that we are as transparent and efficient as possible when we do internal affairs and professional standards reviews," said Gundersen. "A lot of changes had to be made from the old policy; now ensuring that complaints do not bypass the Chief and immediately come to me."

In the past, residents were required to file complaints inside of the police station. The new policy enables residents to file complaints over the phone, by email or by contacting Town Administrator Mike Sullivan.

Under the new policy, "many levels of failure must happen" for a complaint not to reach Gundersen, she noted. Regardless of the outcome, Gundersen contacts all residents who submit complaints when the respective investigations are completed.

The recent slaying of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department has painted all police officers in a negative light, according to Gundersen. She hopes to rebuild trust between the department and residents and feels as though she has a staff that can do just that.

"You can't teach commitment and compassion to people. I came in, and they all have that," said Gundersen. "They really care about this community. You can't legislate good will. We are on a good foot to continue to grow."

At the conclusion of Gundersen's appearance, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman thanked the Police Chief for her time. On behalf of the board, she offered the following words of gratitude.

"I truly want to thank you for being here and doing this with us and doing it in a way that is transparent and that community members can watch in real time and have their questions asked," said Etelman. "It is incredibly meaningful, and I really appreciate it."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

### SOUTH HADLEY POLICE LOGS

Compiled by Melina Bourdeau  
townreminder@turley.com

burglary into a motor vehicle. Police are investigating the incident.

#### Saturday, June 27

2:56 a.m. – Officers responded to a motor vehicle crash at Ferry Street and Hadley Street with minor injuries. One person was transported to the hospital.

#### Sunday, June 28

11:28 a.m. – Officers took a report of dog bite which was referred to the animal control officer. The person was not transported.

4:48 p.m. – Officer took a report of stolen item from their backyard. A report is on file.

9:43 p.m. – Officers took a report of a single-car accident on Muller Bridge. No injuries were reported.

#### Monday, June 29

8:02 p.m. – Officer took a report of harassment. Officers report youth in the area were requested to stop ringing the doorbell.

#### Tuesday, June 30

2:39 p.m. – Officers took a report of an allegation of larceny. Officers found that the owner misplaced the items.

#### Wednesday, July 1

10:16 a.m. – Officers took a report of a stolen Black Lives Matter sign which was taken from a Granby Road residence. Officers are investigating the matter.

11:44 p.m. – Officers took a report of a single car motor vehicle crash on Lyman Street. No injuries were reported.

#### Friday, July 3

8:46 a.m. – Officers took a report of motor vehicle theft from Cordes Court. Officers report it was unknown if the car was locked or not. The matter is an under investigation.

1:40 p.m. – Officers took a report of an unlawful dumping of furniture on River Road. The DPW was contacted.

1:51 p.m. – Officer took a report of shoplifting at Newton Street business.

4:51 p.m. – Christine Durling, 42, of 57 Washington Ave., South Hadley, was arrested on a warrant.

#### Sunday, July 5

3:37 p.m. – Officers responded to a verbal altercation between customers at a Newton Street store.

#### Fireworks advisory

Chief Gundersen reported there have been numerous calls for complaints of fireworks which are concerning. The reports have been ongoing for last three weeks to a month.

Gundersen said it is extremely difficult to find offenders, so the public asked recognize fireworks are illegal and they are disrupting the peace and quiet of their neighbors by using them.

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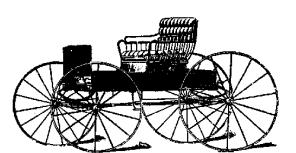
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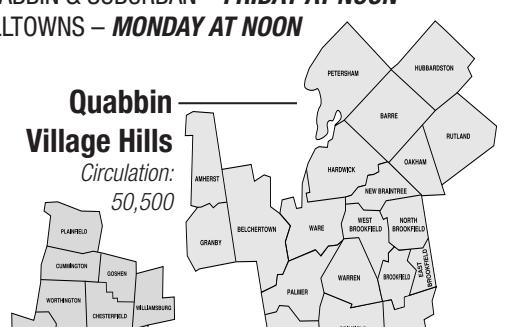
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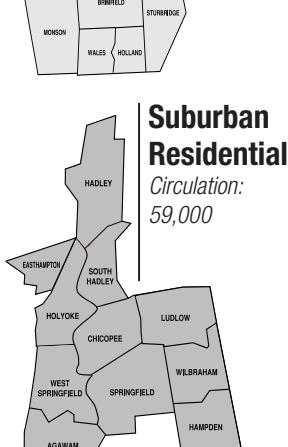
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# Neighbor News

## Valley Gives re-launched

**Community foundation re-opens online giving portal to connect donors with nonprofits in need**

SPRINGFIELD—The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts (CFWM) has re-launched the successful Valley Gives website, Valley-Gives.org.

The “one-stop-giving” online platform aims to connect donors with local nonprofits struggling to provide vital community programs and services—particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. The Community Foundation will promote the Valley Gives website widely to introduce donors to nonprofits in need.

Formerly a single giving day event, Valley Gives will remain “open” for months to come and will give nonprofits a needed fundraising boost. From cultural organizations to environmental programs

and educational services, local nonprofits are facing many financial challenges triggered by the pandemic.

Visitors to Valley-Gives.org can find a menu of more than 135 nonprofits serving residents across Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. People can learn about community challenges and can donate to one or many causes—all with a few clicks on the central, online platform.

The website also is a means for individuals to create a “peer-to-peer” fundraising page for a local nonprofit, set a goal, and reach out to their networks of friends and family to raise dollars for the organization.

According to Katie Allan Zobel, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, “Many nonprofits in the Pioneer Valley region have had to reduce programs and cancel fundraising events due to the COVID crisis. Others have been challenged to meet increased needs for services and essentials.

Many donors are eager to help. We decided to re-open Valley Gives to facilitate community generosity and to give donors an easy way to learn about and donate to many nonprofits. Most importantly, Valley Gives is one more way to help reduce the devastating human cost of COVID-19.”

Donors can contribute on the Valley Gives website using a credit card, mobile payment apps, or Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payment.

GiveGab donated the cost of the Valley Gives platform. According to Zobel, “GiveGab’s tremendous generosity in providing the platform pro bono and their willingness to expedite the start-up made this possible.”

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts launched Valley Gives, a 24-hour marathon day of giving, in 2012. The event was created to raise critical dollars for the Pioneer Valley nonprofit community, whose programs and services improve the quality of life for countless

local residents from all walks of life.

In its six years of one-day online giving combined, Valley Gives Day raised more than \$10 million for nonprofits in the region. In 2018, its final year, more than 400 nonprofit organizations participated in the event.

In addition to Valley Gives, which directly connects individual donors with nonprofits, the Community Foundation established the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley. Grants awarded through the fund provide emergency support to nonprofit organizations in Western Massachusetts serving the needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. To date, the Fund has raised \$4.3 million from 500 donors and has already awarded grants totaling nearly \$2 million.

To donate, visit Valley-Gives.org. To learn more about the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, visit communityfoundation.org.

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# ► Region

## RV industry booming

By Dalton Zbierski  
Staff Writer

REGION – Make no mistake about it, the RV industry is booming. As the travel industry struggles, residents looking to vacation are investing in an alternate mode of transportation, and dealers are cashing in.

"We have everything in place. We don't have to invent anything," said Bob Zagami, Executive Director of the New England RV Dealers Association. "People want to have a great time with their families, they want to be outdoors in the fresh air, they want to go hiking, biking, fishing or just sit around the campfire and talk to the kids. We have the industry that will allow them to do that."

Nine million RVs are already on the road in the United States and 400,000 new RVs are sold each year, said Zagami. From \$6,000 pop-up campers to million-dollar motor homes, the industry has much to offer.

"Take any aspect of it that you want, the whole industry is showing positive increases and accessibility across markets that we'd never thought of before," said Zagami.

COVID-19 has been tough on many, but the rising demand for motor homes has kept Zagami's industry functioning well. He shared insight on why RVs have become one of this spring's hottest commodities.

"Airlines are going to take years to come back. Cruise ships? I don't know what they can do short of giving out free passes to get somebody back

on a ship," said Zagami. "As we make more people aware of our products and services and as the people who already practice RVing talk to their friends and relatives about it, it's general consensus that RVs are the only chance that we've got for people to recreate and try to forget the past two months and the impact that it's had on their lives."

One recent weekend, a member of the association was able to sell 27 units in one weekend, Zagami said. He added that "anything you can have in your house today; you can have in an RV."

From trunk trailers to fifth-wheelers and park models, mobile homes come in all shapes and sizes. For people planning a vacation or just looking to temporarily leave their surroundings, mobile homes can be a resource of great value.

"People want to go on vacation; they want to spend time with their family. We're just saying, 'Hey, we have a better way to do it.' Quite honestly, the industry is working on a campaign just for that. The message is going to get out there that says, 'Hey, if you're going to do anything this year, you're probably going to do it in an RV,'" said Zagami.

The New England RV Dealers Association represents RV dealers in all six New England states and is based out of Hudson.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at [dzbierski@turnley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turnley.com).



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For more information, visit [arborsassistedliving.com](http://arborsassistedliving.com)

# Faces & Places ◀

## Town Reminder in Texas



Submitted photo

Meg Clancy was in Texas in June visiting her son and daughter-in-law. She took some time to visit the Fort Worth Stockyards.

## Annual Press Club Roast postponed until fall 2020

SPRINGFIELD — The Valley Press Club's Board of Directors decided to postpone the May 8 Valley Press Club Roast to the fall due to the effects of the new coronavirus. The Roast, which features humorous sketches about public officials as a fundraiser for the club's scholarships to journalism students, is usually held in the spring at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield. Tony Cignoli, noted national political consultant, was to be the emcee. Numerous local politicians, including

area mayors, city councilors and state legislators were expected to attend. The Roast is similar to the White House Correspondent's dinner in Washington, D.C. that uses humor to bring both the media and newsmakers together. Peter Goonan, reporter of the Republican is the chairman of the event. The Valley Press Club, founded in 1960, consists of active and retired journalists and marketing/public relations professionals.

For more information or to become a member, visit [valleypressclub.com](http://valleypressclub.com).

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